

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF POLICE OFFICER
JOHN D. COOPER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Officer John D. Cooper as he retires after more than 28 years of law enforcement service, with 25 years of that service to the City of Fairfield.

After serving three years as a Deputy Sheriff with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, he was hired as a police officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 14, 1988. As an officer, Cooper worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Youth Services, School Resources, and Field Training. His high work ethic and dedication to police work was evident and he was promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999. Officer Cooper has a genuine attitude of putting public service before himself and as a trainer of newly hired police officers, he taught them to be public servants as well as police officers.

Some of Officer Cooper's most significant contributions to the Police Department have been his ability to remain calm and communicate well during crisis situations. He has assisted with the investigation of numerous major crimes and high profile cases, and his keen investigative skills have contributed to the successful resolution and conviction of numerous criminals. Officer Cooper has been a good representation of the City of Fairfield and the Fairfield Police Department.

He has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evident on a daily basis. Officer Cooper was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

IN MEMORY OF FRED ESMOND

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Fred Esmond who passed away on October 2, 2013.

Fred Esmond served in the U.S. Army Reserves, was a small business owner, participated in many community organizations, and beginning in 2001 was elected four times to serve as the Mayor of Utica, Illinois. I have no doubt that he will be remembered for his stewardship and love for his community during some of its most trying times, including a devastating tornado and multiple floods.

Mayor Esmond leaves a legacy that will continue to serve the residents of Utica for years to come. Under his leadership, the town constructed a new village hall, fire station, and

numerous community buildings. Additionally, visitors and residents often recognize the beautiful streetscapes lining the realigned Illinois Route 178 and a striking memorial to the victims of a 2004 tornado.

Fred is survived by his wife Sandra; his daughters, Sarah Schweickert and Lisa Esmond; his grandchildren, Addison and Bailey Schweickert; and his three brothers, Jack, William, and Truman. While Fred has passed, his legacy and memory will endure in the hearts and minds of his friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I offer my heartfelt condolences to Mayor Esmond's family. The State of Illinois has lost an outstanding citizen and the Illinois River Valley community will miss him dearly.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, brinksmanship makes for poor politics, and defaulting on America's debts will make for a poor national economy and a poor global image. It should not be understated how devastating defaulting on the debt ceiling would be for America's growing economy. A default as a result of political games would be even more embarrassing.

Most games have winners and losers, but if the political games being employed by the Republican party cause a default on America's financial obligations, everyone loses. To be clear, this is not a game. The consequences on the American economy, our country's global image, and the lives of all Americans will be very real.

The Republican government shutdown has illuminated the party's willingness to put politics before people. If the Republican political brinksmanship causes a default on America's obligations, it will demonstrate their willingness to torpedo a growing American economy. This brinksmanship must end and we must raise the debt ceiling and continue advancing policies that have and will continue to allow our economy to grow.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
HONOREES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the inspiring career of Vivian Rodriguez. Vivian is the President of the Democratic His-

panic Caucus of Florida and the Constituent Field Representative for my office.

She presently holds the position of Vice Chair for the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee and is on the Advisory Board of the Central Florida Community Initiative, an organization acting as a liaison between the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit and the citizens of Orange and Osceola County. Vivian was the Political Director of Hispanic Outreach for Joe Saunders, Florida House Representative for District 49, contributing to the successful election of one of the first openly gay legislators in Tallahassee. She is also on the Board of Directors for Equality Florida, which advocates for equality and justice for the LGBT community.

Vivian retired from the New York City Police Department in August 2004, after completing twenty-one years of honorable service and achieving the highest recognition within the NYPD Detective Bureau, Promotion to First-Grade Detective. She was assigned to various specialized elite units which included the Intelligence Division, Executive Protection Unit, Dignitary Protection Unit, the Organized Crime Control Bureau, Task Force Mobilization Unit, Recruitment Section, and the LGBT Sensitivity Training Program for all incoming NYPD police cadets. Vivian was the President of the Gay Officers Action League and Secretary to the NYPD Hispanic Society. She has been acknowledged for her dedicated work in public service and has received various accolades within the Hispanic and LGBT community.

Vivian's last assignment in the NYPD was with the Intelligence Liaison Unit. This unit was created after the 9/11 Attacks in New York City, to combat the global international threat of terrorism in the NYC area. Vivian participated in several counter-terrorism operations to detect and deter terrorist reconnaissance and pre-operational activity to protect the city from future terrorist attacks. Upon retirement, Vivian became a consultant with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and several other law enforcement agencies instructing on intelligence and terrorism.

Vivian's greatest accomplishment was meeting her life partner Valerie Finello, who continues to support all her endeavors. Her pride and joy is her loving son, Tyler, who has grown into a fine young man.

I am happy to honor Vivian Rodriguez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her exemplary career in public service and commitment to equality and justice.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EURIBIADES CERRUD II

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Euribiades Cerrud II for all he has contributed to the city of Orlando.

Euribiades Cerrud II, better known as "Euri," was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on January 26, 1972. Euri was born to an immigrant father from Panama and a Puerto Rican mother. His father was the first person in his

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